

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 30, 31 and 38 to 47 are pending in this patent application. Claims 30, 31, 38 and 43 have been amended, without prejudice. Support for the amendments to Claims 30 and 31 is found throughout Applicants' specification such as, for example, at page 12, paragraph [0044] and Examples 13 to 20 at pages 36 to 45. Claims 38 and 43 have been amended to delete the repeat occurrence of the hydrocarbon "camphene." No new matter has been added.

The Action includes a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested respectfully.

Telephonic Interview

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Rodgers and Examiner Whitehead for the opportunity of a telephonic interview on February 6, 2007 with Applicants' representative, the undersigned, to discuss the present rejection for alleged obviousness over published U.S. patent application 2002/0142585 to Mandal et al. ("Mandal"). During the interview, Applicants explained their position that the claimed invention is patentable over Mandal for all of the reasons of record. In this regard, Applicants underscored the fact that the claimed invention defines a mixture wherein the structure-former precursor and the pore-former precursor are **separate and different** compounds (each having its own respective function) in contrast to one compound with two functionalities (*i.e.*, structure forming **and** pore forming functions) such as, for example, those disclosed by Mandal.

In a telephone conference on February 12, 2007 between Examiner Rodgers and Mr. Rossi, Examiner Rodgers confirmed that agreement was reached with respect to the differences between the claimed invention and Mandal. Examiner Rodgers further stated that the claims would be allowable over the prior art of record if Applicants amend the claims

to more clearly recite that the pore-former precursor is distinct from the structure-forming precursor. In response, Applicants have amended independent Claims 30 and 31 to recite "... a pore-former precursor that is distinct from the at least one structure-former precursor" (addition shown as underlined text). Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants submit respectfully that the claims are patentable over the prior art of record.

Discussion of the Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

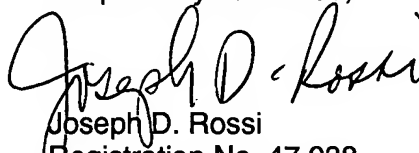
Claims 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Mandal in view of the article C. Waldfried, et al., "Single Wafer RapidCuring™ of Porous Low-k Materials", IEEE (2002), pp. 226-228 ("Waldfried"). In view of the foregoing amendments and the discussion above, Applicants submit respectfully that the rejection is moot.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Action of record. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an indication of allowability and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee required and any additional fees that may be needed to Deposit Account No. 01-0493 in the name of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph D. Rossi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Rossi" clearly distinguishable.

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